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idle frames and a Base Station Identity Code (BSIC, see generally pages 336-342), and a Synchronization Channel (SCH, see, for example, pages 194 and 210).

During the common idle frame mobile stations read the BSIC (which is carried by SCH bursts) of neighbor cells for handover purposes. As such, the SCH bursts from different base stations are sent in sequence during the idle frame. It is important that a given mobile station does not miss parts of the information sent in the SCH bursts, otherwise handovers will not be reliable.

Although the use of the synchronized network allows all of the mobile stations to always receive the idle frames at the same time, it does not imply that all of the measurement windows will occur at the same time. In practice, the measurement window position depends on which time slot is assigned for traffic use for a particular mobile station. Fig. 4 shows that there exists eight possible measurement windows for the eight possible traffic time slots that may be assigned to a given mobile station (the GSM system uses eight time slots per frame.)

The SCH bursts are transmitted during the idle frame in the downlink (base station to mobile station or forward direction) and, as a result, in accordance with conventional practice the mobile station may not receive some part of it. For example, and if time slot 0 is used, the mobile station will always miss the last burst of the idle frame, while if time slot 7 is used the mobile station will always miss the four first bursts.

OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION:

It is a first object and advantage of this invention to provide an improved technique for increasing the